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C. AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

In order to better assist the Examiner with the prosecution of the case, the current pending claims have been included in their entirety for which continued examination is requested.

CLAIMS

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1. (TWICE AMENDED) A method for carrying out, over a communication network of interconnecting computers, electronic transactions between a plurality of merchants using at least one server computer and at least one buyer using a client computer, comprising:

displaying, at the client computer, a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer from at least one merchant ~~two different merchants~~, wherein each separate representation has an associated one of a plurality of selectable states, and wherein a certain one of the plurality of selectable states indicates that the buyer desires to purchase an item from a first merchant if a previous committed transaction which bought another previous item from a second merchant can be canceled; *what it means to user*

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displaying an indication of the one associated selectable state with each displayed separate representation; and

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selecting one of the displayed separate representations to have a selectable associated state that indicates that the buyer desires to purchase a desired item from the first merchant if a given previously committed transaction which bought another previous item from the second merchant can be canceled; *what it means to user*

in response to selecting, i) making an identification of the second merchant and the previous item, ii) sending an electronic communication to the second merchant from the first merchant to cancel the previous committed transaction; and iii) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second

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merchant, automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing to purchase the first item is dependent upon the changed state as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item carried out by the first merchant on behalf of the buyer as initiated by the buyer by selecting the conditional state in association with the first item.

2. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) A method for carrying out, over a communication network of interconnecting computers, electronic transactions between a plurality of merchants using at least one server computer and at least one buyer using a client computer, comprising:

enabling the client computer to display a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer from at least two different merchants wherein each representation has one of a plurality of associated states at a given instance in time;

displaying an indication of the one associated selectable state with each displayed separate representation; and

selecting, by the buyer, one of the displayed separate representations to have a selectable associated state that indicates that the buyer desires to purchase a desired item if a previous committed transaction which bought another item from another merchant can be canceled.

3. (CANCELED)

4. (TWICE AMENDED) The method of claim 2 1 wherein the selected associated state causes an indication to be sent from the client computer to the certain first merchant to lock specific data associated with the desired item from being accessible by a different

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client computer during a period that an associated representation for the desired item has the selected associated state.

5. (AMENDED) The method of claim 3 ~~1~~ further comprising ~~changing the selected state to a different state, upon notification of the cancellation,~~ wherein the different state provides an indication of one of the following: a) the buyer desires to put the desired item on hold for a time to consider buying the desired item, and b) the buyer has bought the desired item.

6. (CANCELED)

7. (CANCELED)

8. (CANCELED)

9. (TWICE AMENDED) A client computer system enabled to communicate over a network with at least one server computer system for carrying out electronic transactions for a buyer using the client computer system for the purchase of items from a plurality of merchants using the at least one server computer system, the client computer system comprising:

a storage device having a set of instructions; and

a processing unit, connected to the storage device, wherein the processing unit executes the set of instructions for i) displaying a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer from at least two different merchants, wherein each separate representation has an associated one of a plurality of selectable associated states at a given instance in time, and wherein a certain one of the plurality of selectable associated states indicates that the buyer desires to purchase an item from a first merchant if a previous committed transaction which bought another item from a second merchant can be

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canceled; ii) displaying an indication of the one associated selectable state with each displayed separate representation; and iii) executing a selection, by the buyer, of a desired item from a certain merchant causing one of the displayed separate representations to have a selectable associated state that indicates that the buyer desires to purchase the desired item if a given previously committed transaction which bought another item from another merchant can be canceled;

iv) in response to selecting, a) making an identification of the second merchant and the previous item; b) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second merchant, automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing to purchase the first item is dependent upon the changed state as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item as initiated by the buyer by selecting the conditional state in association with the first item.

10. (CANCELED)

11. (PREVIOUSLY AMENDED) The system of claim 9 wherein the selected associated state causes an indication to be sent from the client computer to the certain merchant to lock specific data associated with the desired item from being accessible by a different client computer during a period that an associated representation for the desired item has the selected associated state.

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12. (ORIGINAL) The system of claim 10 further comprising means for changing the selected state to a different state, upon notification of the cancellation, wherein the different state provides an indication of one of the following: a) the buyer desires to put the desired item on hold for a time to consider buying the desired item, and b) the buyer has bought the desired item.

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13. (TWICE AMENDED) A computer program having computer readable program code means, on a computer usable medium, for enabling a client computer system to communicate over a network with at least one server computer system to carry out electronic transactions for a buyer using the client computer system to purchase items from a plurality of merchants using the at least one server computer system, the program comprising:

means for displaying, at the client computer, a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer from at least two different merchants, wherein each separate representation has an associated one of a plurality of selectable states, and wherein a certain one of the plurality of selectable states indicates that the buyer desires to purchase an item from a first merchant if a previous committed transaction which bought another item from a second merchant can be canceled;

means for displaying an indication of the one associated selectable state with each displayed separate representation; and

means for selecting one of the displayed separate representations to have a selectable associated state that indicates that the buyer desires to purchase a desired item from the first merchant if a given previously committed transaction which bought another item from the second merchant can be canceled;

in response to selecting, i) making an identification of the second merchant and the previous item; ii) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second merchant, automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing to purchase the first item is dependent upon the changed state as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item as initiated by the buyer by selecting the conditional state in association with the first item..

14. (CANCELED)

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15 (NEW) A method for carrying out, over a communication network of interconnecting computers having at least one client computer system and at least one server computer system, electronic transactions wherein a buyer using the client computer system purchases items from a plurality of merchants using the at least one server computer system, comprising:

displaying, at the client computer, a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer from at least one merchant;

associating, one of a plurality of selectable states selected by the buyer with each separate representation;

in response to associating a conditional state selected by the buyer with a displayed first item, wherein the selected conditional state is indicative of the buyer desiring to purchase the first item from a first merchant (if a previous committed transaction which bought a previous item from a second merchant can be canceled:)

- i) receiving an identification of the previous item and the second merchant;
- ii) sending an electronic communication to the second merchant from the first merchant to cancel the previous committed transaction; and
- iii) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second merchant, automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing to purchase the first item is dependent upon the changed state as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item carried out by the first merchant on behalf of the buyer as initiated by the buyer by selecting the conditional state in association with the first item.

16 (NEW). A merchant computer system, utilized by a first merchant, enabled to communicate over a network with at least one client computer system for carrying out electronic transactions with a buyer using the client computer system for the purchase of items, comprising:

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means for sending to the client computer, a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer;

means for associating, one of a plurality of selectable states selected by the buyer with each separate representation;

in response to associating a conditional state selected by the buyer with a displayed first item, wherein the selected conditional state is indicative of the buyer desiring to purchase the first item from the first merchant if a previous committed transaction which bought a previous item from a second merchant can be canceled:

i) means for receiving an identification of the previous item and the second merchant;

ii) means for sending an electronic communication to the second merchant from the first merchant to cancel the previous committed transaction; and

iii) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second merchant, means for automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing enabling a purchase of the first item is dependent upon the state changing as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item carried out by the first merchant on behalf of the buyer as initiated by the buyer by selecting the conditional state in association with the first item.

17 (NEW). A computer program having computer readable program code means, on a computer usable medium, for enabling a merchant computer system, utilized by a first merchant, to communicate over a network with at least one client computer system for carrying out electronic transactions with a buyer using the client computer system for the purchase of items, comprising:

means for sending to the client computer, a separate representation for each item selected by the buyer;

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means for associating, one of a plurality of selectable states selected by the buyer with each separate representation;

in response to associating a conditional state selected by the buyer with a displayed first item, wherein the selected conditional state is indicative of the buyer desiring to purchase the first item from the first merchant if a previous committed transaction which bought a previous item from a second merchant can be canceled:

i) means for receiving an identification of the previous item and the second merchant;

ii) means for sending an electronic communication to the second merchant from the first merchant to cancel the previous committed transaction; and

iii) if a confirmation is received indicating that the previous committed transaction was canceled by the second merchant, means for automatically changing the state of the first item to a state different from the conditional state, wherein further transaction processing enabling a purchase of the first item is dependent upon the state changing as a result of a successful cancellation transaction of the previous item carried out by the first merchant on behalf of the buyer as initiated by the buyer when a selection of the conditional state in association with the first item is made.